CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1437
8 October 1996

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 3 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE AT ALMATY ON 27 SEPTEMBER 1996 BY THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN CONCERNING THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the statement of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. N. Nazarbayev, concerning the Comprehensive Nuclear-test-ban Treaty made by him in Almaty on 27 September 1996.

Could you please take the appropriate steps to register this document as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and have it distributed to all member delegations and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference?

(Signed) B. UTEMURATOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations Office
at Geneva

STATEMENT

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

N.A. NAZARBAEV

The opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-test-ban Treaty was welcomed with great satisfaction in Kazakhstan.

Five years ago, in a historic step, Kazakhstan put an end to testing of the most dangerous weapon in the history of mankind. The Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site was thus closed by decision of the head of State - a world first.

As a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Kazakhstan strictly abides by the international obligations set out in it and consistently pursues a policy of non-proliferation of other types of weapon of mass destruction. The last nuclear missile launchers on Kazakh territory were destroyed recently. In this way, the nuclear weapons which in total accounted for a quarter of the world's potential have been eliminated from our country.

The people of Kazakhstan felt the full effect of the huge destructive force of nuclear weapons. The wounds inflicted on our people by hundreds of nuclear explosions are now healing in the harsh conditions of the period of transition. The infrastructure of the former testing site at Semipalatinsk is being dismantled.

Kazakhstan is still experiencing the consequences of the 42 years of nuclear testing in the atmosphere and underground. There are hundreds of thousands of disabled and sick people and contaminated land.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is counting on help from the international community in completely eliminating the consequences of the nuclear tests for the health of the people and the environment. We consider that primary responsibility for the rehabilitation of the victims of nuclear testing should be borne by the nuclear Powers.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-test-ban Treaty is the result of positive changes on the international scene in recent years. Kazakhstan duly recognizes the enormous efforts made by many States in arriving at this Treaty. We note with satisfaction that our country too contributed to the drafting of the Treaty, one of the most important of the present century.

Nuclear weapons must never again in any circumstances be a means of destroying people and nature. The cessation of nuclear-weapon testing is, in the highest degree, the noble mission of the States which possess nuclear weapons.

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

Almaty, 30 September 1996